Emphasis on Science Education

4203. SHRI RATNA BAHADUR RAI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are emphasising the need for Science education in the country; and

(b) if so, what steps are being taken to promote the interest of the students and scientists in this field?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Improvement of Science Education in Schools introduced since 1987-88, 100 per cent financial assistance is being provided to the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations for the following approved purposes:—

— Provision of science kits to upper primary schools;

— Upgrading and strengthening of science laboratories in secondary/ senior secondary schools;

— Supply of library books to secondary/senior secondary schools;

— Setting up of District Resource Centres for Science Education for teachers' training, development of instructional materials, etc.

— Training of science and mathematics teachers.

Under the aforesaid scheme voluntary agencies are also being provided 100 per cent financial assistance for conduct of experimental and innovative programmes in the field of science education. The activities may include taking up well-designed field projects, development of teaching-learning materials and aids, preparation, of books, brochures, posters, audio-visual materials and their dissemination, training or orientation of teachers, organisation of seminars, co-curricular activities in schools in collaboration with Education Department authorites, etc.

Under another scheme "Operation Blackboard" introduced since' 1987-88 primary schools are being provided with science and mathematics kits to enable the teachers to familiarise the students with elementary concepts of science.

In the higher education sector the University Grants Commission has taken up a number of schemes to improve *staw*-dards of research in science, engineering and technology. These include College Science Improvement Programme, assistance to selected Departments in Universities etc., University Science Instrumentation Centres, Science Education Centres, Publication of Research Journals and special assistance for starting courses in emerging areas of science. During the Seventh Plan, the Commission slso established Inter University Centres to provide common research facilities and services in Nuclear Science, Astronomy and Astrophysics, etc.

संगम विहार स्थित दिल्ली नगर निगम के विद्यालय की भूमि पर अनधिकृत कब्जे

4204. **श्री चतुरानन मिश्र :** क्या **मानव संसाधन विकास** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि अगस्त, 1990 के आस-पास दक्षिण क्षेत्र में संगम विहार स्थित दिल्ली नगर निगम के प्राथमिक विद्यालय की भूमि से अनधिकृत कब्जों को हटाने के लिए निदेश दिए गये थे ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो उन पर क्या कार्यवाही की गई और यदि नहीं तो उसके क्या कारण हैं ; और

(ग) ये अनधिकृत कब्जे कब तक हटा दिए जाने की संभावना है ?

मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्री (श्री अर्जुन सिंह) : (क) से (ग) सूचना एकत्र की जा रही है और सभा पटल पर रख दी जाएगी।